

The Group's accounting policies conform with IFRS which differ in certain significant respects from US GAAP. Differences which have a significant effect on net profit and shareholders' equity are set out below.

(a) Revaluation of property, plant and equipment

In connection with the Restructuring, the property, plant and equipment of the Predecessor Operations were revalued as at 31 December 2001 (see Note 3 on the financial statements). The net revaluation deficit has been reflected in the consolidated financial statements as at 31 December 2001. Such revaluation resulted in an increase directly to shareholders' equity of RMB4,154 million with respect to the increase in carrying amount of certain property, plant and equipment above their historical cost bases, and a charge to income of RMB11,930 million with respect to the reduction in carrying amount of certain property, plant and equipment below their historical cost bases.

In connection with the Acquisition, the property, plant and equipment of the Acquired Group were revalued as at 31 December 2002 (see Note 3 on the financial statements). The net revaluation deficit has been reflected in the consolidated financial statements as at 31 December 2002. Such revaluation resulted in an increase directly to shareholders' equity of RMB760 million with respect to the increase in carrying amount of certain property, plant and equipment above their historical cost bases, and a charge to income of RMB14,690 million with respect to the reduction in carrying amount of certain property, plant and equipment below their historical cost bases.

Under US GAAP, property, plant and equipment are stated at their historical cost less accumulated depreciation unless an impairment loss has been recorded. An impairment loss on property, plant and equipment is recorded under US GAAP if the carrying amount of such asset exceeds its future undiscounted cash flows resulting from the use of the asset and its eventual disposition. The future undiscounted cash flows of the Group's property, plant and equipment, whose carrying amount was reduced in connection with the Restructuring and the Acquisition, exceed the historical cost carrying amount of such property, plant and equipment and, therefore, impairment of such assets is not appropriate under US GAAP. Accordingly, the revaluation reserve recorded directly to shareholders' equity and the charge to income recorded under IFRS as a result of the Restructuring and the Acquisition are reversed for US GAAP purposes.

However, as a result of the tax deductibility of the net revaluation deficit, a deferred tax liability related to the net revaluation deficit is created under US GAAP with a corresponding decrease in shareholders' equity.

(b) Disposal of revalued property, plant and equipment

Under IFRS, on disposal of a revalued asset, the related revaluation surplus is transferred from the revaluation reserve to retained earnings. Under US GAAP, the gain and loss on disposal of an asset is determined with reference to the asset's historical cost carrying amount and included in current earnings.

(c) Related party transactions

Under IFRS, transactions with state-controlled enterprises other than China Telecom and its affiliates are not required to be disclosed as related party transactions. Furthermore, government departments and agencies are deemed not to be related parties to the extent that such transactions are in the normal course of business. Therefore, related party transactions as disclosed in Note 32 on the financial statements only refer to transactions with China Telecom Group.

Under US GAAP, there are no similar exemptions. The Group's principal transactions with state-controlled telecommunications operators in the PRC were as follows:

	2003 RMB millions	2002 RMB millions
Interconnection revenues	5,010	3,967
Interconnection charges	898	668
Leased line revenues	2,751	3,586

The amounts set out above represent the historical costs incurred by the related parties in carrying out such transactions.

(d) Recently issued accounting standards

SFAS No. 150

In May 2003, the FASB issued SFAS No. 150, "Accounting for Certain Financial Instruments with Characteristics of both Liabilities and Equity. SFAS No. 150 establishes standards for the classification and measurement of certain financial instruments with characteristics of both liabilities and equity. It also includes required disclosures for financial instruments within its scope. For the Group, SFAS No. 150 was effective for instruments entered into or modified after 31 May 2003 and otherwise will be effective at the beginning of the first financial year beginning after 15 June 2003. FASB Staff Position No. FAS150-3 deferred certain provisions of SFAS No.150 for certain mandatorily redeemable non-controlling interests. The Group currently does not have any financial instruments that are within the scope of SFAS No. 150.

FIN No. 46R

In December 2003, the FASB issued Interpretation No. 46 (revised December 2003), "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities (FIN 46R), which addresses how a business enterprise should evaluate whether it has a controlling financial interest in an entity through means other than voting rights and accordingly should consolidate the entity. FIN 46R replaces FASB Interpretation No. 46, "Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities, which was issued in January 2003. The Group will be required to apply FIN 46R to variable interests in Variable Interest Entities ("VIEs") created after 31 December 2003. For variable interests in VIEs created before 1 January 2004, the Interpretation will be applied beginning on 1 January 2005. For any VIEs that must be consolidated under FIN 46R that were created before 1 January 2004, the assets, liabilities and non-controlling interests of the VIE initially would be measured at their carrying amounts with any difference between the net amount added to the balance sheet and any previously recognised interest being recognised as the cumulative effect of an accounting change. If determining the carrying amounts is not practicable, fair value at the date FIN 46R first applies may be used to measure the assets, liabilities and non-controlling interest of the VIE. The Group does not expect the application of this Interpretation will have a material impact on its consolidated financial statements.

(e) Reconciliation of net profit and shareholders' equity under IFRS to US GAAP

The effect on net profit of significant differences between IFRS and US GAAP for the years ended 31 December 2003 and 2002 is as follows:

	(Note) 2003 US\$ millions	2003 RMB millions	2002 RMB millions
Net profit under IFRS	2,983	24,686	9,773
US GAAP adjustments:			
Reversal of deficit on revaluation of property, plant and equipment, net of minority interests	—	—	14,690
Depreciation on revalued property, plant and equipment	(476)	(3,940)	(1,542)
Disposal of revalued property, plant and equipment	(7)	(60)	(55)
Deferred tax effect of US GAAP adjustments	159	1,320	(4,321)
Net profit under US GAAP	2,659	22,006	18,545
Basic earnings per share under US GAAP	0.04	0.29	0.27
Basic earnings per ADS* under US GAAP	3.52	29.10	26.78

* Basic earnings per ADS is calculated on the basis that one ADS is equivalent to 100 H shares.

(e) **Reconciliation of net profit and shareholders' equity under IFRS to US GAAP**
(continued)

The effect on shareholders' equity of significant differences between IFRS and US GAAP as at 31 December 2003 and 2002 is as follows:

	(Note) 2003 US\$ millions	2003 RMB millions	2002 RMB millions
Shareholders' equity under IFRS	15,860	131,272	152,848
US GAAP adjustments:			
Revaluation of property, plant and equipment, net of minority interests	1,935	16,017	20,017
Deferred tax effect of US GAAP adjustment	(642)	(5,316)	(6,636)
Shareholders' equity under US GAAP	17,153	141,973	166,229

Note:

Solely for the convenience of the reader, the amounts for 2003 have been translated into United States dollars at the noon buying rate in New York City on 31 December 2003 for cable transfers in RMB as certified for custom purposes by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York of US\$1.00=RMB8.2767. No representation is made that the RMB amounts could have been, or could be, converted into United States dollars at that rate or at any other certain rate on 31 December 2003, or at any other date.